

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9814

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 5870

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT VS

SUBJECT: CEASEFIRE AND POLITICAL SPOT REPORT MR I:

VIEW OF CG ARVN 1 ST DIV ON NVA ACTIVITIES IN THUA THIEN

THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM DATED APR 6 FROM AMCONGEN DANANG
IS REPEATED HERE FOR YOUR ACTION/ INFO:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L DANANG 346

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, VS

SUBJ: CEASEFIRE AND POLITICAL SPOT REPORT MR I: VIEWS OF CG

ARVN FIRST DIVISION ON NVA ACTIVITIES IN THUA THIEN

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH HUE AREA DIRECTOR AND POLOFF ON
APRIL4, THE CG OF THE ARVN FIRST DIVISION, BG LE VAN THAN,
STATED THAT DESPITE THE DISTURBING FACT THAT THE NVA IS REBUILD-

ING A STRONG MILITARY CAPABILITY, IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO CON-
CLUDE THAT ANOTHER OFFENSIVE IS INEVITABLE. THAN SAID HE FEELS
THAT IT WOULD BE POOR TIMING ON THE PART OF THE COMMUNISTS TO
ATTACK WHILE THE ATTENTION OF THE US GOVERNMENT IS STILL
FOCUSED ON VIETNAM AND WHILE THE POSSIBILITY OF PROGRESS TOWARDS
POLITICAL ACCOMMODATION HAS NOT YET BEEN FORECLOSED.

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2. IF, HOWEVER, THERE IS AN ATTACK IN NORTHERN MR I WITHIN THE NEXT 60 DAYS, THAN EXPECTS A SHORT BUT INTENSE, THREE- PRONGED THRUST NORTH AND SOUTH OF HUE AND AT HUE CITY ITSELF. A THREAT TO HUE, WHETHER OR NOT ITS CAPTURE IS THE ENZMH' S PRIMARY OBJECTIVE, WOULD PIN DOWN THE ARVN FIRST DIVISION AND PREVENT IT FROM ASSISTING IN THE DEFENSE OF QUANG TRI PROVINCE.

3. THAN NOTED THAT THE PRESENT PATTERN OF ENEMY ACTIVITY INDICATES THAT THE ENEMY IS ATTEMPTING TO REGAIN FORWARD BASES IN THE CO BI AREA, SIX KILOMETERS SOUTHWEST OF QL-1 IN PHONG DIEN DISTRICT, AND THE NUI BON/ HILL 224 AREA, APPROXIMATELY FOUR KILOMETERS SOUTHWEST OF QL-1 IN PHU LOC DISTRICT. IT WAS FROM THESE AREAS BOTH TO THE NORTH AND SOUTH OF HUE CITY THAT ATTACKS ON THE AN LO AND TRUOI BRIDGES ON QL-1 WERE LAUNCHED IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE CEASEFIRE. THAN ALSO NOTED THAT THE ENEMY IS REBUILDING THAT TA BAT AIRSTRIP (YC425950) IN WESTERN THUA THIEN, WHICH BEFORE ITS DESTRUCTION COULD ACCOMMODATE CARGO AIRCRAFT. THOMSEN

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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